

# ASSESSMENT OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AMONG COMMERCIAL MOTORCYCLISTS IN ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE

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## ABSTRACT

*The consumption of alcohol on the job is common among the commercial motorcyclist in most communities in Nigeria. This study assessed the consumption of alcohol among the commercial motorcyclists at a community park in Abeokuta, Ogun state. The design of this study is descriptive survey and the target population are the motorcyclists at Ita-Oshin community. Convenient sampling technique was used to select 60 for the study out of about 110 registered motorcyclists at the park. The instrument used for this study is a self-constructed question comprising of four (4) sections with a reliability score of 0.74. Data analysis is done using descriptive statistics and presented in form of tables, frequencies and percentages. The result of this study reveals that the alcohol consumption level of respondents is low and years of consumption is between 1-5 years. The result observed that the respondents take only a bottle per day. Further findings showed that respondents take all kinds of alcohol and feel comfortable during consumption. The study also observed that respondents consume alcohol any time of the day, anywhere, every day when they need not work efficiently and in social gathering as the pattern of alcohol consumption. Lastly this study showed that weather condition, coping with frustration, someone's job, peer influence and stress are factors influencing alcohol consumption. The study therefore recommends a continuous education and enlightenment on mass media and at the garages (park).*

**Keywords:** Alcohol, Level of Alcohol Consumption, Commercial Motorcyclist.

## INTRODUCTION

The use of commercial motorcycle has been of tremendous link in the substitution to taxi as it brings about the ease of access to Nigerians. Its use in most nooks and crannies of the country has complemented the use of cabs by the passengers

and that has brought some relief to the citizens who are customers to the commercial motorcyclists which are also known as Okada riders. According to Tumwesigye, Atuyambe and Kobusingye (2016), the use of motorcycle has occupied an important structure in meeting the need of the passengers more than other road transport means. The increase in the number of Commercial motorcycle is attributed to poor road, reduced number of car plying some roads and traffic log jam in Nigeria (Oyeleke & Bada, 2015). However, some disadvantages are emanating from the use of these commercial motorcycles as a means of transportation due to the habit of the riders.

The habits of usage of substances are widely reported among the transporters. There are different reasons why some Okada riders are said to be indulging in such an act of taking substances. The most reported substances which are being used among the transporters are alcohol. This is partly due to the accessibility of the drug as a 'gate way drug' of which the sales are mostly within the vicinity of the commercial motorcyclists. The use of alcohol poses a threat to the life of commercial motorcyclists and their passengers. According to Onifade, Aduradola, & Amao (2012), the unruly behaviour manifested by the commercial motorcyclists are associated to alcohol use which has been a challenge to Nigerian society. The worldwide account of road traffic accident wounds and injury reported more motorcyclist than the motorists (Fagnant & Kockelman, 2013). There is 34 times increase in road traffic death among the motorcyclists in a mile travelled of a car (Tumwesigye, Atuyambe & Kobusingye, 2016).

The use of alcohol among the motorcyclists follows patterns which have been like precedence to the new ones taking up the business. There are different levels of indulgence in this behaviour and some factors to the use of substances emanated from the idea of being energetic and to increase concentration on duty. Meanwhile some of the factors that are associated with the use of alcohol while riding the motorcycle are poor judgement, inability to obey traffic orders and high risk of Road traffic accident (RTA). This is quite different from the original reason for the establishment of the motorcycles in bridging the gap to the transportation issues in Nigerian community.

The use of alcohol is a worldwide phenomenon. It is paramount to note that the use of alcohol is beneficial to man and this informed the sales in some communities. It is a drug which is not banned by legislation among other psychoactive substances. The clause to the use is an inappropriate consumption that could endanger the life of users and significant orders. According to Alti-Muazu & Aliyu(2009), drugs is useful to human but the hazardous use is frowned at in many communities due to its biopsychosocial effects. It has been reported that that alcohol causes Global Burden of Disease with the contribution of 4% and this is urging the government to promulgate a law to prohibit the sales in some countries (Brand *et al*, 2007). Motorcycle riders are among the users of alcohol as the substance exists within their territories e.g terminus, garages. Some law enforcement agencies are aware of the sales of alcohol to be proximal to the garages yet there is no ban on the sales to curtail intake among the Motorcyclists. In the same vein, the government has not issued a ban on the operation of the commercial motorcycles in the community. The researcher therefore was moved to investigate the consumption level of alcohol among the commercial motorcyclist in a community in Abeokuta, Ogun state.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To determine the level of alcohol consumption among commercial motorcyclist.
2. To identify the pattern of alcohol consumption among commercial motorcyclist.
3. To identify the factors influencing the consumption of alcohol among commercial motorcyclist.

## **MATERIALS AND METHOD**

This study utilized a descriptive research design to assess the use of alcohol among the commercial motorcyclists in Abeokuta community. The community comprises a garage a terminus where motorcyclists and taxi drivers disengage and pick up their passengers. The garage is governed by some union leaders where drivers and riders earn their living. The target population for the study are the motorcyclists at Ita-Oshin community. The community houses many of the motorcyclists due to network of road connecting the community to other community. The inhabitants are mainly the Yoruba speaking people, with other tribes such as Igbos, Igbiras, Calabars, Hausas with Yoruba language as the mostly spoken. There are about 110 registered motorcyclists in the garage. Convenient sampling was used to select 60 for the study. The instrument for data collection was a self-constructed questionnaire. The questionnaire comprises of four (4) sections: Section A: Demographic information of the respondents, Section B: Level of alcohol use, Section C: Pattern of alcohol use, Section d: Factors influencing the consumption of alcohol and Section. The questionnaire was shown to experts for modification. The face and content validity of the questionnaire was determined by experts. Pilot test was done for reliability of the instrument to determine internal consistency. The Cronbach's alpha value

showed an overall reliability of 0.741. The letter of introduction was taken to the Chairman, Commercial Motorcycle Riders Association of Nigeria (Ita-Oshin branch) who gave his assent and grants an access to the respondents. Informed consent was taken from the respondents as the promise of utmost confidentiality was assured. Questionnaire was administered through face-to-face method. Data collection took about 2weeks. For participants who do not understand English Language fluently, interpretation was done by the researcher in pidgin and Yoruba languages. Data collected is sorted and cleansed. Thereafter, data gathered will be coded and analyzed using descriptive and inferential

statistics, SPSS version 21. Research questions will be answered using descriptive statistics through frequency table representations. The data collected were analysed using frequency tables and percentages.

## RESULTS

The demographic result in table one showed that 28.3% of the respondents are within the age range of 21- 25yrs, while 26.7% are within the age range of 26 – 30years, 20% are within the age range of 31-35years, and 25% are within the age range of 36 and above years. The marital status of the respondents showed that 30% are single, 60% married, 5% divorced and 5% widowed.

**Table 1:  
Demographic Characteristic of the Respondents**

	Category	Frequency N=60	Percentage (%)
Age:	21-25years	17	28.3
	26-30 years	16	26.7
	31-35 years	12	20
	36 years and above	15	25
	Total	60	100
Marital status :	Single	18	30
	Married	36	60
	Divorced	3	5
	Widowed	3	5
	Total	60	100

Table 2 shows that the duration of alcohol among respondents are between 1-5years among 58.3% of the respondents, 6-10years among 18.3% of respondents, 11-15years among 5% of respondents and 16years and above among 18.3% of respondents.

The result observed that 20% of respondents take less than 1 bottle per day. 41.7% take only one bottle per day, 21.7% per day and 16.6% take 6 bottles and above per day.

The result for type of alcohol consumed by the respondents showed that 30% of the respondents take beer, 28.3% take wine, 8.3% take schnapps while 33.3% all kinds of alcohol.

It is also noted in this study that 63.3% of respondents feel comfortable taking alcohol a day.

This study concluded that majority of the respondents have been taking alcohol for 1-5years, they only take a bottle per day, they take all kind of alcohol and feel comfortable taking alcohol. And the alcohol consumption level is low.

**Table 2:**  
**Alcohol consumption among the respondents**

SN	Items	N=60 (%)
1	Duration of alcohol use	
	1- 5 years	35 (58.3%)
	6- 10 years	11 (18.3%)
	11 - 15 years	3 (5%)
	16 & above	11 (18.3%)
2	How many bottle(s) do you take per day?	
	Not up to a bottle	12 (20%)
	One bottle	25 (41.7%)
	2- 5 bottles	13 (21.7%)
	6 and above	10 (16.6%)
3	What type of alcohol do you drink?	
	Beer	18 (30%)
	Wine	17 (28.3%)
	Schnapps	5 (8.3%)
	All of the above	20 (33.3%)
4	Do you feel comfortable taking alcohol in a day?	
	Yes	38 (63.3%)
	No	22 (36.7%)

The pattern of alcohol consumption in table 3 showed that 13.3% of respondents consume alcohol before food, 12.3% immediately after food, 45% anytime of the day, while 18.3% may decide to take alcohol at night.

Finding further revealed that 20% of respondents consume alcohol at home, while 30% in a social gathering, 13% in the garage and 37% anywhere. 40% of respondents drink alcohol every day, 50% occasionally and 10% once/twice a week.

The study showed that 48.3% of respondents take alcohol when they need to work efficiently while 57.7% do not.

Result showed that 26.7% of respondents drink alcohol before they start work and 73.3% do not.

Also, study observed that 75% of respondents take alcohol more at social gathering while 25% do not.

This result indicates that majority of the respondents consume alcohol any time of the day, anywhere, every day when they need not work efficiently and in social gathering.

**Table 3:**  
**Pattern of alcohol consumption**

1	When do you like taking alcohol?	N=60 (%)
	Before food	8 (13.3%)
	Immediately after food	14 (23.3%)
	Anytime of the day	27 (45%)
	At night	11 (18.3%)
2	Where do you like taking the alcohol?	
	At home	12 (20%)
	In a social gathering	18 (30%)
	In the garage	8 (13%)
	Anywhere	22 (37%)
3	How often do you drink alcohol?	
	Everyday	24 (40%)
	Occasionally	30 (50%)
	One/twice a week	6 (10%)
	Others	0
4	I drink, when I need to work efficiently	
	Yes	29 (48.3%)
	No	31 (51.7%)
5	I drink alcohol before I start work everyday	
	Yes	16 (26.7%)
	No	44 (73.3%)
6	I drink alcohol more at social gathering than at work	
	Yes	45 (75%)
	No	15 (25%)

Table 4 showed that 53.3% stated that weather condition is a factor that determines alcohol consumption while 46.7 do not. The study also observed that 51.7% of respondents use alcohol to cope with frustration while 48.3% do not. The study also reported that 46.7% of respondents think someone's job can be a factor to alcohol use, while 53.3 % do not. The result of this study revealed that 70% of the

respondents believed that peer influence can be the cause of alcohol while 35% did not. Lastly, 73.3% of respondents think that stress can be a contributing factor to alcohol use while 26.7% do not. This result implies that weather condition, coping with frustration, someone's job, peer influence and stress factor influencing alcohol consumption.

**Table 4:**  
**Factors influencing the use of alcohol**

		N=60 (%)
1.	Weather condition determines my alcohol use	
	Yes	32 (53.3%)
	No	28 (46.7%)
2.	I use alcohol to help me cope with frustration	
	Yes	31 (51.7%)
	No	29 (48.3%)
3.	Do you think alcohol use is hereditary?	
	Yes	28 (46.7%)
	No	32 (53.3%)
4.	Do you think someone’s job can be a factor to alcohol use?	
	Yes	42 (70%)
	No	18 (30%)
5.	Do you believe that peer influence can be the cause of alcohol use?	
	Yes	39 (65%)
	No	21 (35%)
6.	Do you think that stress can be a contributing factor to alcohol use?	
	Yes	44 (73.3%)
	No	16 (26.7%)

**DISCUSSION**

This study determines the use of alcohol among the commercial motorcyclists in Abeokuta. The total of the questionnaires administered were retrieved and all were fitted for analysis, giving a 100% response as data generating sample. The demographic characteristics of respondents observed that majority are between the ages 21-25years. This corroborates the finding of Onifade, Aduradola, & Amao (2012) that stated that the commercial motorcyclists are within an active productive age. Majority 60% of the respondents are married, Christians and Yorubas. Further observations showed that majority of respondents had both Primary and secondary school education. This is almost in line with the study by Ajibade et al (2016), which stated 71.5% educational attainment of both Primary and secondary school.

This study observed that the level of consumption of alcohol among respondents is

low. Majority of the respondents have been taking alcohol for 1-5years, they only take a bottle per day, they take all kind of alcohol and feel comfortable taking alcohol. This study is not similar to a study by Fatoye and Morakinyo (2002) because the most used alcohol among their respondents is beer, followed by Palm wine. Other locally made alcohols are also identified to be in uses such as distilled local gin which acts like Schnapps. Obot (2007) also noted in his study that the commonly used alcohol is Beer. In another study by Bello et al (2011) observed that reported that majority of their respondents (76.6%) who drink alcohol go for Beer as their choice drink which is the most selling among the others in the world of alcoholic beverages.

This study observed that majority of the respondents consume alcohol any time of the day, anywhere, every day when they need not work efficiently and in social gathering as the pattern of alcohol consumption. This is line with the study by Onifade, Aduradola, & Amao



(2012) where their respondents reported not to be taking alcohol during the business hours. This study is not in congruence with the study by Omumu, Tibi & Chenube (2017), who's respondents indulged in alcohol use before embarking on the work and without a caution. This study also corroborates the study by Lasebikan et al (2018), who noted that majority of their respondents in a social gathering and are not known alcoholics. They further observed that most consumers of alcohol in Nigeria rarely drink in isolation, they rather drink in the gathering of their fellow drinkers mostly in social events.

This result revealed that weather condition, coping with frustration, someone's job, peer influence and stress factor influencing alcohol consumption. This result is not in support of Oyeleke & Bada (2015) who observed that the need to maintain a warm as the reason for taking alcohol. This study corroborates the study by Alti-Muazu & Aliyu (2009) and Prabhu et al (2014) who noted that peer influence was enlisted as a factor influencing alcohol consumption in their study. This study is also consistent with Begona et al (2000), who found that marital issue, financial and occupational could pose a stress on an individual making such a one to look into alcohol intake as a means of surviving such a moment there and also are stress induced alcoholism is common among men than female. Another study by Beckemeyer-Vance (2009) revealed that a stressful experience and a wrong feeling produced by stress at work is reported to be eased off when the individual drinks hence the indulgence of people in the use of alcohol

### **NURSING IMPLICATION**

Alcohol consumption among the commercial motorcyclists have posed threat to the society as many are sent to early grave while other victims are left with permanent injury or

deformities that are to be nursed forever. It is therefore necessary for health professionals, and particular nurses to realize the consequence of alcohol consumption, so as to help in propagating the awareness on hazard of alcohol and its eradication. There is a need for public enlightenment through mass media in order to capture a wide radius of disseminating information on alcohol use among the motorcyclists. The mental health nursing specialist group has the onus of sponsoring jingles on radio and television stations. There is an urgent need for mental health nurses to take their public education/ health education to the garages or community parks where Commercial motorcyclists do the business of picking up their passengers. A regard to the time where most of the motorcyclists could concentrate on the time of nurses' health education on alcohol should be clearly mapped out through a liase with the motorcyclists' union leaders.

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This study on the Assessment of Alcohol Use among Commercial Motorcyclists concluded that majority of the respondents have been taking alcohol for with 1-5 years duration and the common type of alcohol taken was Beer. The study also revealed that most respondents do not drink during the business hours and many of them are social drinkers as events like social gathering bring about their usage of alcohol. It is also noted through the study that weather condition is the precursor to the use of alcohol among the motorcyclists. The study revealed also that majority of the respondents stated that individual job could be a factor to the use of alcohol. Peer group influence is also seen given a sign to the fact that her days are not meant to be long.

Based on the findings from the study, it was recommended that, there is a need for

continuous education on effect of alcohol on the users. There should be a periodic enlightenment programmes on alcohol in the garages. Gingles against the use of alcohol should be sponsored in local media. Policies that control consumption of alcohol should be reinforced.

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